

Revelation

9. 'Laodicea: The Self-Sufficient Church' (3:14-22)

(Video: **No Video Available This Session**)

Introduction

This is the last of the 7 churches the Lord addresses in the book of Revelation.

I. Laodicea: the city, the church, and introduction of Jesus (v.14)

-The city of Laodicea: located in a valley within 20 miles of Colosse and Hierapolis. This was a city where you would have wanted to live: a wealthy place, lots of things to do like shopping, sports, restaurants, etc.

1. It was the center for banking in the region.
2. It was known for its wool industry.
3. It was famous for its medical community. It was most famous for producing an eye salve.

-The church of Laodicea: in Colossians chapter 1 we understand that Epaphras took the gospel to Colosse. Perhaps this led to the church spreading to nearby Laodicea.

-Jesus introduces himself (v. 14) "The Amen" or the Truth. "The faithful and true witness." Question: will I as a believer remain true and faithful to Jesus when things get tough? Jesus did.

"The beginning of the creation of God." Jesus was the source of God's creation (see John chapter 1).

II. Jesus' 'true diagnosis (vv. 15-17)

-The problem of Laodicea's water. Hierapolis had hot springs of water that were famous and desired. Colosse had cold water resulting from snow melt on nearby mountains, which was also desirable. Laodicea had no good source of water, so they had to pipe it in from Hierapolis and Colosse. This water picked up minerals

from the stone pipes used which made it undrinkable and lukewarm. It made you sick to drink it unless treated. Jesus is saying the church in Laodicea was just like their water: it made him sick!

-Why Christ was sickened by this church: they were self-sufficient (v.17). "I am rich, and have need of nothing;" They thought they were fine and didn't need Jesus' aid as a church.

-The truth of the matter: they had tremendous need! (v. 17) They had a great lack, not of material things but spiritually.

III. The prescription from the Lord of the Church (vv. 18-20)

-The problem of self-sufficiency today! Examples:

"I don't need prayer" (lack of prayer). Prayer demonstrates our dependency on God.

"I don't need God's word." God's word is our spiritual food, and we need intake of this daily.

"I don't need the Holy Spirit for my ministry." We need the Holy Spirit to minister correctly and in love.

"I don't need God's truth in the different realms of my life" (marriage, work, family, handling money, etc.).

-Shopping at the treasure store of Christ (vv. 18-19) Jesus Christ is our spiritual treasure: our true riches are in Him. Our righteousness before God is in Him, and by Him we may truly see.

-Open the door again to intimacy with Christ (v. 20) Believer in Christ, we have the opportunity to draw close to Jesus and have a close relationship with Him. This is His desire! Sharing a meal is a seal and sign of friendship, fellowship, intimacy throughout the regions of Israel and the Middle East cultures. We can and must open the door to Jesus to experience this intimacy and richness of relationship Jesus desires to have with His people!